



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**

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**National Weather Service recognizes the 10 year Anniversary of Hurricane Floyd
Record flood with a High Water Mark sign in Chinquapin, NC**

In the midst of hurricane awareness week, thoughts are turning back to the devastating and widespread flooding that 10 years ago this September Hurricane Floyd brought to the Carolina's to as far north as New England. The National Weather Service would like to mark the anniversary of Hurricane Floyd by reminding people to be prepared for each hurricane season, and to be aware of their flood risk.

Between September 14th and 17th 1999, Hurricane Floyd produced torrential rainfall measuring as much as one to two feet along the eastern seaboard. This heavy rainfall, just seven days after Hurricane Dennis skirted over the North Carolina's Outer Banks, resulted in the greatest flooding in the state's recorded history. In the wake of Hurricane Floyd's track along the eastern seaboard, ten governors declared their states major disaster areas. Property losses caused by river and flash flooding from the Carolinas to New England were estimated to range from \$4.5 billion to over \$6 billion. In North Carolina alone, flooding resulted in \$1.9 billion in property damage and another estimated \$6 billion in business and agricultural damages.

Of the 56 fatalities in the United States resulting from Hurricane Floyd, 50 were due to drowning in freshwater river and flash flooding. The majority of these fatalities, some 64 percent, were the result of individuals driving their vehicles into flooded roadways and being swept away by the swollen rivers. NOAA National Weather Service storm data show that on average floods kill more people every year than lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes.

Several National Weather Service Forecast Offices have placed high water mark signs across their area to represent the record floods of Hurricane Floyd. Signs that have already been unveiled are in Greenville, Snow Hill, Kinston, Pollocksville, and Tarboro NC, as well as one in Franklin, VA. Additional sites to be dedicated throughout the 2009 hurricane season include Rocky Mount, Goldsboro, Burgaw, and Trenton all in North Carolina. On Wednesday May 27th, the National Weather Service office in Newport, NC will deploy a high water mark sign to the city of Chinquapin in Duplin County. This sign will show the peak height of the flood waters near the river gage along highway 40 near the intersection of Rodney Lanier Road. In addition to the high water mark sign, the county will receive two road signs depicting "When Flooded, Turn Around Don't Drown," to help warn drivers of the dangers of entering flooded roadways.

For more information about hurricane Floyd, including educational and preparedness materials on hurricanes and flooding, please visit <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/mhx/Floyd/index.php> or contact sarah.jamison@noaa.gov.